

In the Claims:

Claims 1-11 (withdrawn)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A fuel injector ~~having a nozzle~~ with improved cooling for an internal combustion engine comprising:

a substantially tubular retainer having a proximal end with a nozzle support portion, said nozzle support portion having an outer peripheral surface and an engagement opening with an inner peripheral surface; and

a nozzle housing received within said retainer at said proximal end, said nozzle housing including a nozzle shank with an outer peripheral surface, an elongated valve cavity adapted to receive a valve element and at least one injection hole at a tip of the nozzle shank which is adapted to spray fuel;

wherein said inner peripheral surface of said nozzle support portion has a diameter smaller than a diameter of said outer peripheral surface of said nozzle shank in a manner that an interference fit exists at a seal interface between said nozzle shank and said nozzle support portion when said nozzle shank is installed in said nozzle support portion to prevent combustion gas from entering an engagement opening between said nozzle shank and said nozzle support portion.

Claim 13 (original): The fuel injector of claim 12, wherein the diameter of the inner peripheral surface of said nozzle support portion is sized approximately 0.00005 to 0.001 inch smaller than the diameter of said outer peripheral surface of said nozzle shank.

Claim 14 (original): The fuel injector of claim 13, wherein the diameter of the inner peripheral surface of said nozzle support portion is sized approximately 0.0001 to 0.0006 inch smaller than the diameter of said outer peripheral surface of said nozzle shank.

Claim 15 (original): The fuel injector of claim 12, wherein said nozzle support portion includes a chamfer adapted to facilitate installation of said nozzle shank into said nozzle support portion.

Claim 16 (original): The fuel injector of claim 15, wherein the diameter of the inner peripheral surface of said nozzle support portion is sized approximately 0.00005 to 0.001 inch smaller than the diameter of said outer peripheral surface of said nozzle shank.

Claim 17 (original): The fuel injector of claim 16, wherein the diameter of the inner peripheral surface of said nozzle support portion is sized approximately 0.0001 to 0.0006 inch smaller than the diameter of said outer peripheral surface of said nozzle shank.

Claim 18 (original): The fuel injector of claim 12, wherein the nozzle shank is press fitted into said engagement opening of said nozzle support portion.

Claim 19 (original): The fuel injector of claim 12, wherein said retainer further includes a nozzle sleeve and said nozzle support portion is provided on said nozzle sleeve.

Claim 20 (original): The fuel injector of claim 12, wherein the fuel injector is adapted to be received in an injector bore of a cylinder head of the internal combustion engine, and said outer peripheral surface of said nozzle support portion directly contacts at least one of the injector bore of the cylinder head and a coolant jacket sleeve installed in the injector bore.

Claims 21-33 (withdrawn)